



First Presbyterian Church

Las Cruces, New Mexico

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 23, 2026 — 10:30 AM

Enter to worship – Leave to serve

PRELUDE

“Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring”

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

“O Love that Wilt Not Let Me Go” (Hymn tune by Albert L. Peace, 1844-1912)

setting by Robert J. Hughes (1916-1999)

“Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling” (hymn tune by Will Lamartine Thompson, 1847-1909)

setting by William M. Felton (1887-1942)

**The Prelude functions like a curtain that separates our world from the worship place of peace and sanctuary. We enter prayerfully. We wait expectantly, listening for God’s Spirit and truth, which challenges us to return to the world equipped for faithful and useful Christian service.

*** Those who are able, please stand**

Please turn off all cell phones

WELCOME, GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEDITATION IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

“You don't have to be the bad guy. You are the most talented, most interesting, and most extraordinary person in the universe. And you are capable of amazing things. Because you are the Special. And so am I. And so is everyone. The prophecy is made up, but it's also true. It's about all of us. Right now, it's about you. And you... still... can change everything.” - Emmet, *The Lego Movie*

CHORAL INTROIT

“God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending”

BEACH SPRING

ASSEMBLE IN GOD’S NAME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Jonathan West

Leader: You, who are many, are transformed to become one in Christ.

People: **We, who are many, are called to worship God, the Three in One. Let us worship God.**

*PRAYER OF ADORATION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Almighty and loving God, you have given us eyes to see the light that fills this room, give us eyes to see you in this place. You have made us so we can feel the morning wind on our faces, help us to sense your presence as we come and worship you, praying as you taught your disciples, **Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed by thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

PLEASE BE SEATED

CALL TO CONFESSION

"Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us"
Chancel Choir

KYRIE ELEISON

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Forgiving God, we confess that we are conformed to this world. Rom. 12:2 We conform to this world's frantic pace, too hectic to notice all the blessings you provide. We conform to this world's reckless waste, exploiting what you entrust to our care. We conform to this world's shallow values, oblivious to the giftedness of people different from us. We conform to this world's impatient attitudes, preferring the latest instead of the lasting. Forgive our conformity and transform us, O God. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION AND REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE AND MERCY

Leader: It is so easy to think like the world, that money will give us happiness, that power will earn us grace. But Paul reminds us that if we think like Christ, and live for others, we will find true freedom.

People: **Not only our minds, but may God transform our hearts and spirits into the likeness of Christ, so we may be faithful disciples. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.**

HYMN OF ASSURANCE

#766 "The Church of Christ Cannot Be Bound"

MC KEE

GOOD NEWS TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Erin Taylor

- Children are asked to sit on the carpet squares in the front.

CALL TO PRAYER

#285 "Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song"

BRIDEGROOM

PASTORAL PRAYER

ANTHEM

"Come! Live in the Light!"

WE ARE CALLED

PROCLAIM GOD'S LOVE

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Matthew 16:13-20

Romans 12:1-8

Dr. Catherine Brewer

Matthew 16:13-20 (NRSVUE)

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist but others Elijah and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

Romans 12:1-8 (NRSVUE)

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, on the basis of God's mercy, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable act of worship. Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the encourager, in encouragement; the giver, in sincerity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

DOXOLOGY

#606 "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"

OLD HUNDRETH

SERMON

“Jesus, Master Builder”

Amon Taylor

CLOSING HYMN

#733 “We All Are One in Mission”

ES FLOG EIN KLEINS WALDVOGELEIN

GO IN GOD’S NAME

*CHORAL BENEDICTION “God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending”

BEACH SPRING

*POSTLUDE

Hymn Tune Improvisation

Howard A. Smolleck

Liturgist-Jonathan West Deacon Captain-Donna Phillips
Sound System-Max Schroeder Video-Dina Schroeder

Greeting before the Worship Service:

David Vandervelde-E Bob Distlehorst-W Donna Marconi-S

Greeting after the Worship Service:

Erin Taylor-E Amon Taylor-W Jonathan West-S

Rev. Pyong San Yu	Korean Congregation	Dr. Janet Loman	Comm. Pastor, College Ministry
Dr. Howard A. Smolleck	Organist	Ada Castle	Commissioned Pastor, Visitation
Veronica Giron	Salt & Light Coord.	Dr. Paul Deason	Commissioned Pastor
Beth Borchert-Thomas	Dir. Of Music & Bells	Veronica Giron	Office Manager
Pang Baker	Bookkeeper		

Members of Session

Steve Loman	Moderator of the Session	Janet Mara	Moderator, Missions
Alice Distlehorst	Music & Worship	Ada Castle	Buildings & Grounds
Roni Hardin	Moderator, Music & Worship	Jeanette Smith	Administration & Finance
Diana Howard	Moderator, Congregational Life	Scott Burns	Congregational Life
Erin Taylor	Moderator, Christian Education	Nancy Cowan	Missions
Jimmy O’Neal	Administration & Finance	Linda Ward	Moderator, Buildings & Grounds
Jim Parks	President, Foundation	*Dinah Jentgen	Clerk of Session
Wanda Mattiace	Moderator, Administration		

After-Worship Fellowship

Join us for a time of fellowship and refreshments immediately following Worship this morning in the Jones Hall Fellowship area. This is a time to welcome and greet new friends and old friends alike. Fellowship this morning is hosted by the Missions Committee of Session.

Please Remember in Your Prayers

- *The Muncy and Garcia family who lost their son to suicide.*
- *Lyn Ames' nephew Brent, who has had surgery for a spinal injury at work and is facing serious complications in recovery.*
- *Kathy Story.*
- *Amber Nolan who is dealing with struggles and overwhelming thoughts.*
- *Tamala, cousin of Amber Nolan.*
- *Simon, friend of Amber & Johnny, who's been experiencing a mental health crisis.*
- *Valeria Carter's sisters, Mae Johnson and Margaret.*

Continued Prayer List

Sharon Pierce; Charlotte Brockway; Ed Mathis; Barb Wolflick; Sandra Valencia; Florence Hamilton; Sara Kay; Jack Curry; Arnold McMillan; Millie Conrad; Dorris Hamilton, Valeria Carter, and Joanne Kersting at The Heritage.

8/26 Dinah Jentgen



8/27 Janet Loman

Welcome

Mission Statement: *A place where Christian love is modeled*

Our Worship services are available:

- 1.) In-person, with Covid19 precautions
- 2.) Live-stream on YouTube, First Presbyterian Church Las Cruces, NM
- 3.) Video archive on the church website, our Facebook site, or YouTube

CORONAVIRUS PRECAUTIONS:

- Seating in the West and South sections of the Sanctuary is unrestricted.
- The East section is reserved for those wishing to wear masks and social-distance. Hand-sanitizer and wipes are located in each aisle.
- Please register your presence with contact information and any prayer requests on the small slip of paper in your Bulletin, and place it in the purple offering box in the aisle, so that if we need to do contact tracing later, we can contact those who were present.

*Contributions to support your church can be done in a variety of ways:

1. Cash or check in the purple offering box.
2. Check sent by mail.
3. Online at fpc.lc/giving or via the QR code on the right.
4. Using the app “Church Center”.



CCLI License No. 540727



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Website



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Online Church Calendar



FPC.LC/Sermons
Livestream and/or
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More information can be found on our website fpc.lc

Thank you for your continued generosity and faithful giving.

200 E. Boutz Rd., Las Cruces, NM 88005
575.526.5559

Church Office Hours: Monday – Thursday 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM

In the Life of the Church

Salt & Light

Salt & Light begins on Wednesday, September 9th!



Because I'm the salt of the earth.



*The Session will be hosting a
meeting and dinner for their committee and the moderators
and/or their representatives on
Thursday, September 10th at 5:45 PM
in Jones Hall to go over the budget.*

*Please RSVP with Wanda Mattiace via email at wanda@adventuretravelnm.com by
Monday, September 7th.
We look forward to seeing you there!*



*The Chancel Choir will begin on Wednesday, September 9th at 7:00 PM
and Handbells will begin on Monday, September 14th at 7:00 PM*



In-Betweeners for August

On Friday evening, August 28th, we'll be getting together at 6 PM in Watkins Fellowship Hall for a catered dinner (\$15/person.)

After dinner, the program will be a video with excellent photography and surprising information about Niagara Falls and the surrounding ecosystem. Please let the Ames (575-636-0210) know by Monday, August 24th that you'll be coming!



Sunday, August 23rd

- 9:00 AM Adult Sunday School in Jones Hall Library, led by Catie Brewer, viewing and discussing the video series "Invitation: A Bible Study to Begin With." Come any Sunday you can; the sessions are independent.
- 9-11:45 AM Childcare in Branigan Hall
- 9:00 AM Sunday School for grades K-5 in Branigan Hall
- 9:30 AM Sunday School for grades 6-12 in Reeves Hall
- 9:15 AM Choir Rehearsal
- 10:30 AM Worship together in the Sanctuary
- 11:45 AM After-Worship in Jones Fellowship Hall (see announcement)

Monday, August 24th

Tuesday, August 25th

- 12:00 PM Deadline for submissions for The Good News

Wednesday, August 26th

- 12:00 PM Deadline for submissions for the Sunday Bulletin

Thursday, August 27th

- 10:00 AM Knitting Group in Jones Hall Parlor
- 1:30 PM Listening Prayer in Jones Hall Parlor

Friday, August 28th

Office Closed

- 6:00 PM In-Betweeners in Watkins Fellowship Hall

Saturday, August 29th

Sunday, August 30th

- 9:00 AM Adult Sunday School in Jones Hall Library, led by Catie Brewer, viewing and discussing the video series "Invitation: A Bible Study to Begin With." Come any Sunday you can; the sessions are independent.
- 9-11:45 AM Childcare in Branigan Hall
- 9:00 AM Sunday School for grades K-5 in Branigan Hall
- 9:30 AM Sunday School for grades 6-12 in Reeves Hall
- 9:15 AM Choir Rehearsal
- 10:30 AM Worship together in the Sanctuary
- 11:45 AM After-Worship Fellowship in Jones Fellowship Hall